

Little America
Cheyenne, WY
February 15, 2018
9:00 am
MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 9:00 am and Roll Call Don Stauffenberg
 - a. Present: Elwood Birch, Jeffery Harrington, Jamie LaValley, Don Stauffenberg, Bill Rice, Terry Donaldson
 - b. Absent: Don Dorn
 - c. Others Present: Mary Ellen Young, Helen Jerome, Ronda Strother
 - d. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of August 11th board meeting Minutes Don Stauffenberg
 - a. Terry Donaldson made the motion to approve the minutes. Jamie LaValley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Approval of January 31, 2018 Financials Don Stauffenberg
 - a. Looking at the last page of the financials shows the percentage remaining is 27.24%. Since we are 75% through the biannual budget we may be able to sneak by without having to use any of the exception monies.
 - b. Jamie Lavalley made the motion to approve the financials. Elwood Birch seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Old Business
 - a. Board Openings Don Stauffenberg
 - i. We have two board member openings at the present time. One is the Sweetwater County Hospital position and the other is a mining position.
 - b. Explanation of how the 2x2x3 benefit structure works Mary Ellen
 - i. We pay the first 2K in benefits and the next 2K goes toward their deductible. After the deductible is met we will pay an additional 3K so the miner still gets the full 5K in claims. Don Stauffenberg said that if the miner doesn't turn in claims during the time period of meeting our deductible then we will not know when they have met our deductible so it needs to be relayed to them that they still need to submit claims so we know when we should be paying again. Elwood Birch was wondering what kind of reaction we will be getting from the miners but once it is explained to them they are fine with it.
 - c. Executive Director's Report/Programs Mary Ellen
 - i. Mary Ellen Young went over the report. We were really seeing expenses go up the first part of our year but after August they went down so we

should be able to get through this year without having to use the exception money even though it was approved to be used effective immediately.

- ii. Bill Rice asked about the percentage of the monies we are allowed to use and Mary Ellen Young explained where our 5% of the monies come from.

d. 2019/2020 Budget/Exception Request Mary Ellen

- i. The exception was approved to be used immediately but hopefully we will not have to use it either this year or next with the new imposed deductible. The 2017/2018 budget can borrow from the 2019/2020 exception request because it was approved effective immediately.
- ii. Our budget analyst did not support us using the full 5% of the monies in the 17/18 budget since we have had monies left over in the past years

5. Proposed JAC sponsored bill Mary Ellen

- a. Terry Donaldson asked why the JAC chose 10 years of mining employment for eligibility in SF0082. Don and Mary Ellen were present before the JAC and were asked when they thought accumulative damage due to mining occurred and they expressed their opinions at 10 years. The JAC was given the audited data that showed in 2012 75% of all miners registered already had 10 years of mining experience. Many miners that showed less than 10 years may have had more experience, but only current information was documented because that's all they had to prove to be eligible under current guidelines. Bill Rice asked how this would affect the miners after we just instituted the 2x2x3 program and now this will be a major change and very little time for notification to the miners that will be affected. Mary Ellen and Don both agreed that if they had known the JAC was going to offer a bill which changed eligibility, the 2x2x3 plan may not have been an option at this time
- b. Don reminded the Board that by Statute the board is directed to offer benefits to active, not active and disabled miners. If a person gets hurt in the mine and are disabled and by that disability not able to meet the employed time requirements, then no matter how many years they have will still be covered under the WMHB. That is a statement currently on our registration form.
- c. There was much discussion on the current proposed bill, SF0082. Bill Rice was uncomfortable letting the bill pass without being able to get more information out to the public. Terry believes that the 10 yrs. is an arbitrary number. Jeff Harrington commented on how labor in the mines has changed. Miners years ago did not have the automation they have today and had a physically more demanding job and could feel the effects in much less than the 10 years proposed. Elwood Birch said that some of the people voting on the bill would be

union advocates and that probably the unions would not be agreeable to this. There also is the possibility that the House may amend the bill to grandfather everyone in as suggested by LSO. Bill Rice made the motion to withdraw the bill due to the fact that we need more data. Terry Donaldson seconded the motion. A vote was called. Two in favor, four against; motion failed.

- d. Terry believes that perhaps people's lifestyles contribute more to their cardiac problems rather than their mining. He was wondering what NIOSH had in their records to show what different health issues are related to their mining. Mar Ellen will contact NIOSH and see if that data is available.
- e. Mary Ellen asked if everyone would be more comfortable if all currently registered miners were grandfathered in as suggested by LSO. Jeff Harrington made the motion that we agree with the proposed amendment to grandfather everyone in that is enrolled as of June 30, 2018. Terry Donaldson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- f. It was discussed and agreed that all miners terminated (inactive) prior to June 30, 2018 will have to meet the new requirements of SF0082 if it passes in order to be reinstated after June 30, 2018.

6. New Business

Don Stauffenberg

- a. Election of new Board Chairman
 - i. Nominations are open for board chairman:
 - 1. Jeff Harrington nominated Don – not accepted
 - 2. Jamie LaValley nominated Elwood Birch – accepted and elected by affirmation.

7. Public Sounding

- a. None

8. Adjournment & Next Meeting

- a. May meeting
 - i. May 4th at Casper, WY Meeting date changed to May 11th due to availability of meeting location.
- b. Adjourned
 - i. Jamie LaValley made the motion made to adjourn the meeting @ 10:30 am. Elwood Birch seconded the motion. Motion carried.